



October 4, 2002

California Manufacturers & Technology Association  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Federal Communications Commission  
C/o Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary  
445 12th Street SW  
CY-B402  
Washington DC 20554

FCC Proceeding: 02-306

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the California Manufacturing and Technology Association (CMTA), an organization representing California's high-tech and manufacturing sectors, I urge you to take the final step toward opening up the long distance market in California by approving SBC Pacific Bell's Section 271 application.

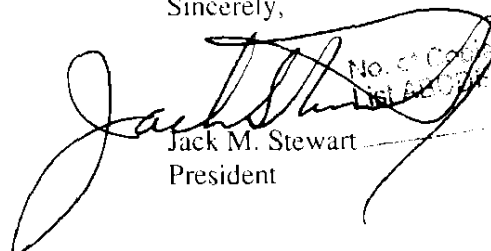
SBC Pacific Bell has well over a hundred year history of doing business in California. The company has provided jobs and fueled the economy not only in the telecom sector, but also in the manufacturing sector by being a significant consumer of manufacturing equipment. More recently, SBC Pacific Bell's commitment to expanding and upgrading its network to provide broadband services has had a significant multiplier effect on the state economy. CMTA is confident that SBC Pacific Bell's entry into the long distance market will once again put the company in a position of bringing great benefit to the state of California.

SBC Pacific Bell's efforts – and investment – to open up the local exchange market have been successful. Local competition is thriving in the state. We have seen full-scale local market entry by companies like AT&T, MCI WorldCom and Cox. Total access lines served by competitors have grown nearly seven-fold since 1998 – now up to more than 3.5 million. Moreover, FCC statistics show that 43 percent of zip codes in California have four or more competitors.

It is now time to allow the one provider in our state that is prohibited from offering long distance service to enter that market. We are confident that SBC Pacific Bell's entry will lead to great savings in California, just like it has in New York and Texas. To date, 23 states have received FCC approval and more than 141 million Americans are benefiting from increased telecommunications competition. Californians should be next.

We encourage the FCC to take the final step and vote favorably on SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application.

Sincerely,

  
Jack M. Stewart  
President

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